

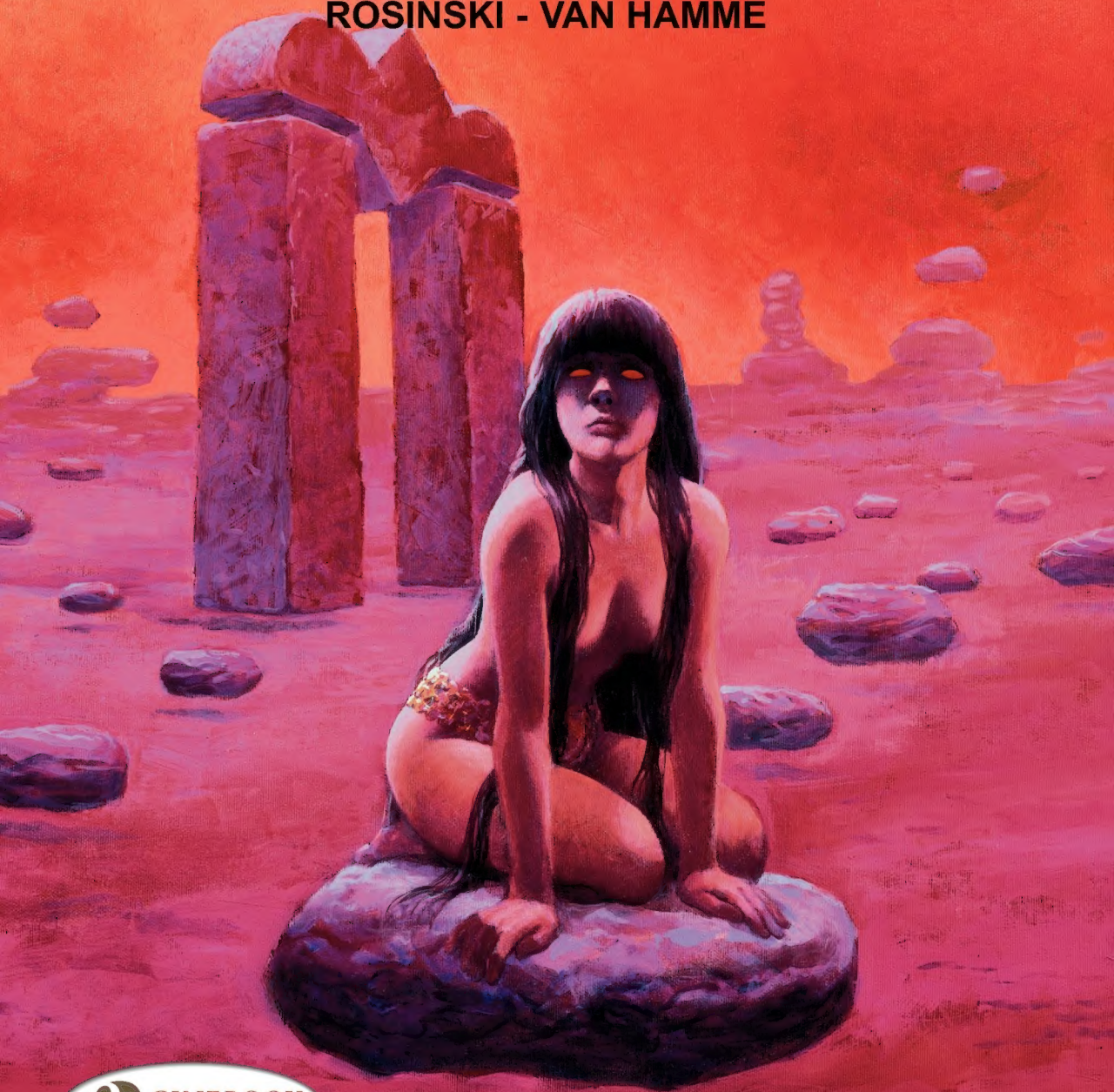


THORGAL

The Guardian of the Keys



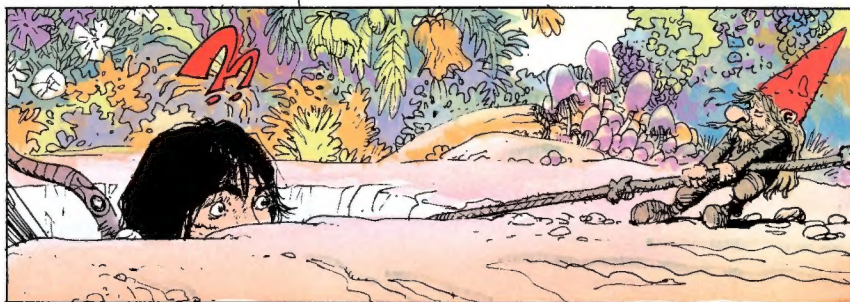
ROSINSKI - VAN HAMME

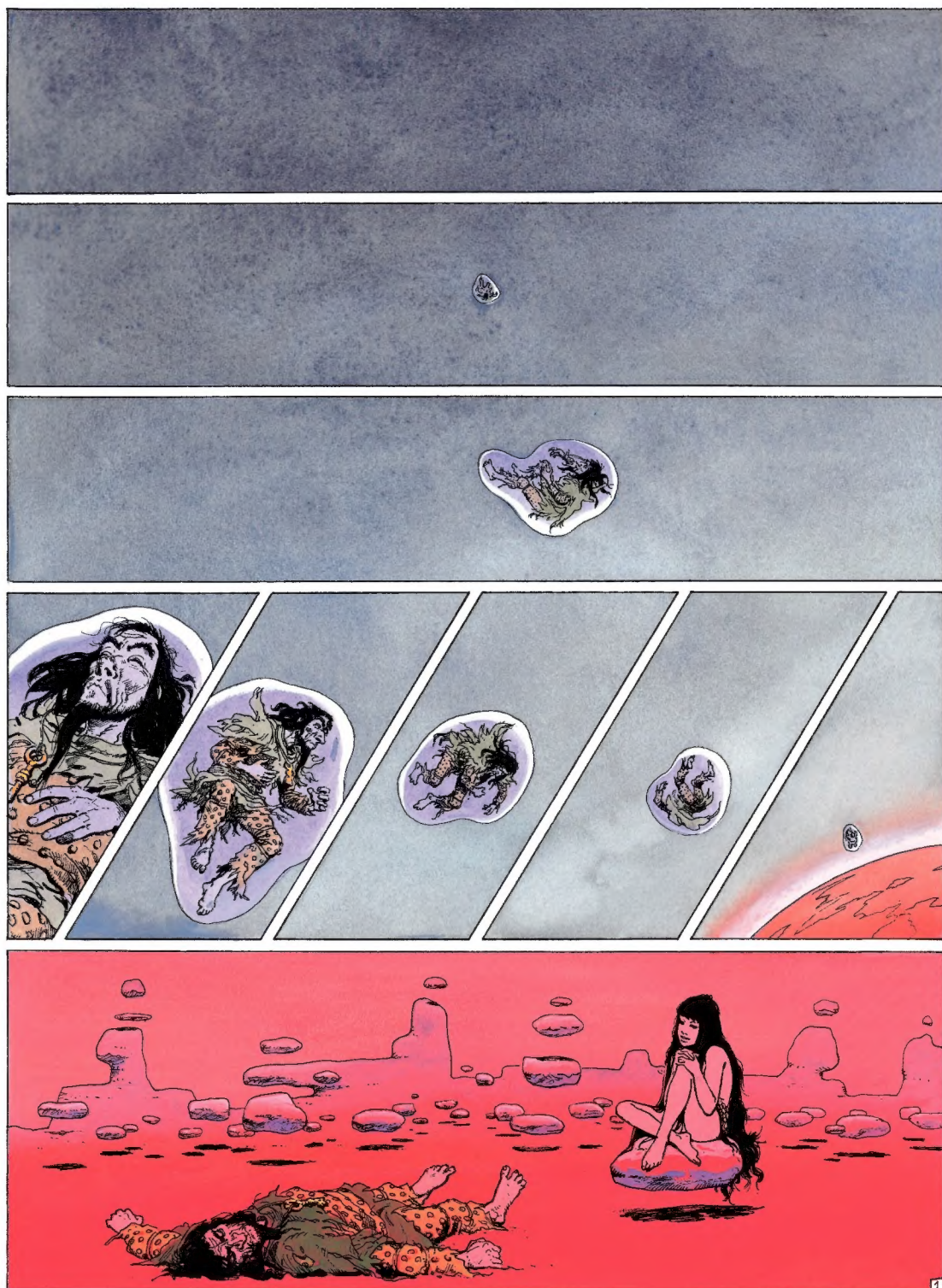


ROSINSKI-VAN HAMME

THORCAL

The Guardian of the Keys





WHAT... I...
I'M ALIVE?...
I'M ALIVE!...

A LITTLE
SHAKEN FROM
THE VOYAGE,
THOUGH?

WHO?... OH!
THE GUARDIAN OF
THE KEYS!

I'M HAPPY TO SEE
THAT YOUR LONG
SLUMBER IN THE
FOLDS OF SPACE
HASN'T ERASED YOUR
MEMORY, VOLSORG
OF NICHOR.

BUT I'M NOT WHO YOU THINK I AM.
I'VE ONLY TAKEN ON THE APPEAR-
ANCE TO BETTER EXPLAIN THE
MISSION THAT I'M GOING TO
ENTRUST TO YOU.

WHO ARE YOU, THEN?
WHAT MISSION DO
YOU MEAN?

ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW
IS THAT I'M SOMEONE
WHO CAN, AT THE CLICK
OF MY FINGERS, SEND
YOU BACK TO THE VOID
I JUST PLUCKED YOU
FROM. SOMETHING
I'LL DO IF YOU
FAIL.

NOBODY. ALL YOU'LL HAVE TO DO IS
BRING ME THE TRUE GUARDIAN OF THE
KEYS' BELT. AND LEAVE HER WITH THIS
ONE INSTEAD. NOTHING VERY HEROIC,
AS YOU CAN SEE.

BUT IF YOU
SUCCEED, I'LL TAKE YOU
TO MIDGARD, THE WORLD
OF MORTALS, WITH AS MUCH
GOLD AS YOU CAN CARRY.
THE DEAL SEEMS HONEST
TO ME, AND I WON'T
EVEN ASK IF
YOU AGREE.

THAT
SUITS ME
PERFECTLY.
WHOM MUST
I KILL?

OH... IS THAT
ALL? WHAT'S SO
SPECIAL ABOUT
THIS BELT?

THAT'S NOT
YOUR CONCERN.
ACCOMPLISH THIS
SIMPLE TASK WITHOUT
ASKING QUESTIONS
AND YOU'LL HAVE
YOUR PREVIOUS
LIFE BACK,
WITH MORE
RICHES.

ALL RIGHT. BUT HOW
WILL I FIND THIS
CHARMING GUARDIAN?

SHE'LL BE THE ONE
TO FIND YOU. GO THROUGH THE
PORTAL YOU CAN SEE OVER THERE,
AND YOU'LL ENTER THE SECOND WORLD
THAT SHE PROTECTS. SHE'LL APPEAR TO
CHECK ON YOUR PRESENCE. THEN, IT'S UP
TO YOU TO SHOW YOURSELF SLY ENOUGH
TO ACCOMPLISH YOUR MISSION.

YEAH. THE PROBLEM IS THAT SHE KNOWS ME. AND OUR LAST ENCOUNTER WASN'T THE... FRIENDLIEST*. SHE'LL BE WARY.

I KNOW. BUT SHE HAS TO BE WARY OF ANY INTRUSION INTO THE SECOND WORLD. THE GUARDIAN HAS NEITHER FRIENDS NOR ALLIES.



BUT IMMORTALS CAN ALSO HAVE THEIR WEAK POINTS, AND IT JUST SO HAPPENS THAT I KNOW HER. IT'S A MAN FROM MIDGARD LIKE YOU, A SIMPLE HUMAN WHOM YOU'VE ALREADY MET BEFORE.



AND SO I WILL GIVE YOU HIS APPEARANCE...

23456789



MY BODY!... MY FACE!... IT'S ALL BURNING!... WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO ME?...

YOU'LL ALSO HAVE HIS VOICE, HIS MOVEMENTS, HIS STRENGTH...



TO SUCCEED IN YOUR MISSION, YOU WILL BE THORGAL AEGIRSSON!



BUT, WHY!? WHY HIM!?

I TOLD YOU: HE'S THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN BREAK THROUGH THE GUARDIAN OF THE KEYS' WARINESS. BUT BE CAREFUL; IF, FOR ANY REASON, YOU SHOULD LOSE THE SMALLEST DROP OF BLOOD, THE SPELL'S HOLD WILL FADE AND YOUR NORMAL APPEARANCE WILL RETURN. SO, YOU MUST AVOID ANY INJURY AT ALL COSTS.



IF I MUST... AND WHAT SHOULD I DO WHEN I HAVE THE BELT?

BRING IT BACK TO ME HERE BY COMING BACK THROUGH THE PORTAL. HOWEVER, I MUST WARN YOU OF SOMETHING, VOLSRUNG OF NICHOR...



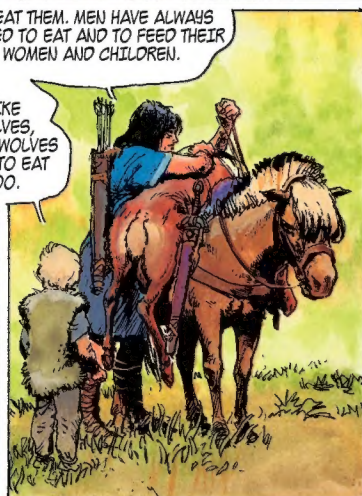
BUT, IF YOU DARE TO TRY AND CROSS ME, YOUR PUNISHMENT WILL BE INDESCRIBABLE!



I CHOSE YOU BECAUSE YOU'RE DISHONEST AND COWARDLY, CRUEL, A LIAR, GREEDY AND UNSCRUPULOUS—ALL QUALITIES THAT PLEASE ME IMMENSELY.



*SEE THE THREE ELDERS OF ARAN.



WHEN YOU'RE ABLE TO DRAW A BOW, PAL. WHICH IS STILL FAR FROM BEING THE CASE.

THAT'S BECAUSE YOU DON'T WANT TO TEACH ME.

WE'LL LOOK AT IT WHEN YOU'RE GROWN UP, JOLAN.



IT'S STRANGE; THIS PLACE REMINDS ME OF SOMETHING... LIKE A DISTANT MEMORY...



I'VE GOT IT... IT WAS HERE THAT TJAHZI PASSED US OVER TO "THE OTHER SIDE."

TJAHZI? THE DWARF YOU GAVE THE METAL THAT DOESN'T EXIST?

DID YOU REALLY DO ALL THAT WHEN YOU WERE A LITTLE BOY LIKE ME?

NO, JOLAN, THAT STORY ISN'T REAL. IT'S A SORT OF DREAM.



HOW DID YOU KNOW THAT?

AARICIA TOLD ME. SEVERAL TIMES. WITH THE VAMPIRE-SNAKES. AND THE GODDESS FRIGG'S FLYING CATS. AND HOW YOU FOUGHT AGAINST THE 12 TAILS OF THE NIDHOGG DRAGON...
WOW!



WELL, I THINK IT IS...



HEY!?...

*SEE CHILD OF THE STARS.





INTRODUCTIONS LATER. DROP YOUR BOW AND WALK FIVE PAGES WITHOUT TURNING. THE SLIGHTEST AGGRESSIVE MOVEMENT FROM YOU, AND I'LL PUT A HOLE IN YOUR NECK.



UNDRESS??

YOU HEARD ME; OFF WITH YOUR CLOTHES. NOW!



PERFECT. NOW, GET UNDRESSED.



MAYBE I'VE FOUND A CRAZED MAN, OR IT COULD BE ONE OF THE VILLAGES HAVING A JOKE AT MY EXPENSE. I'M SURE I'VE HEARD THAT VOICE SOMEWHERE.

AND NOW?

THROW THEM TO ME.



NOT SO FAST...



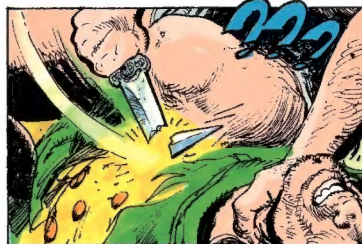
FIRST I WANT TO KNOW WHO I'M DEALING WITH.

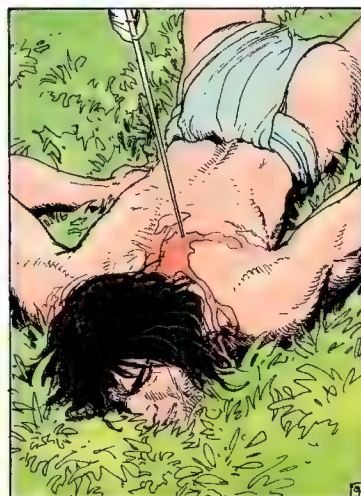
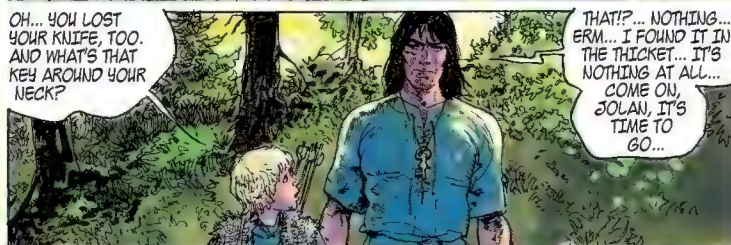
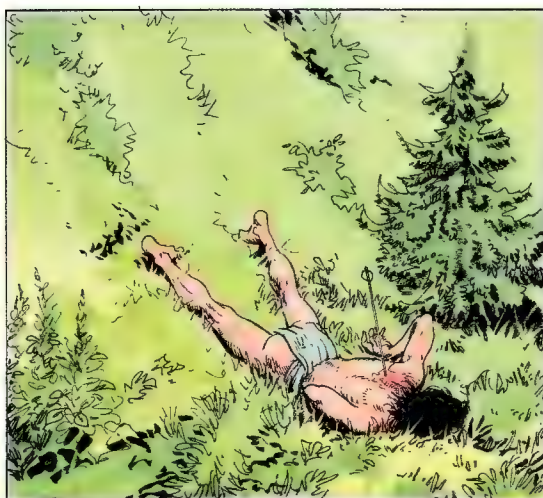
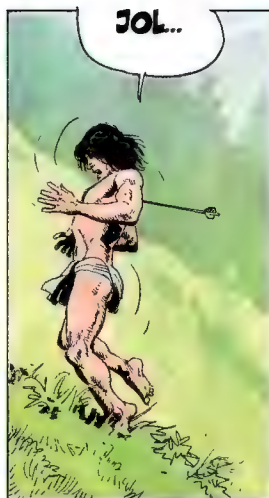


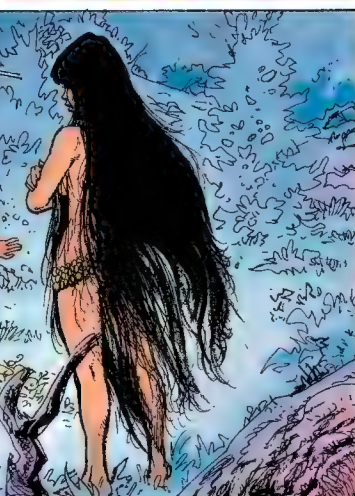
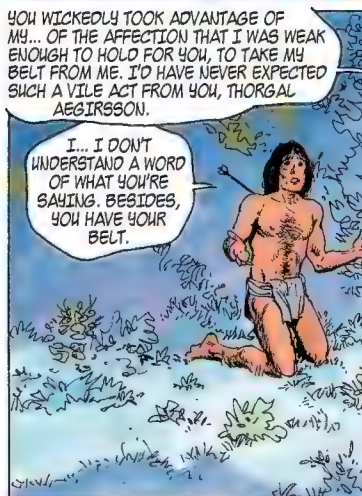
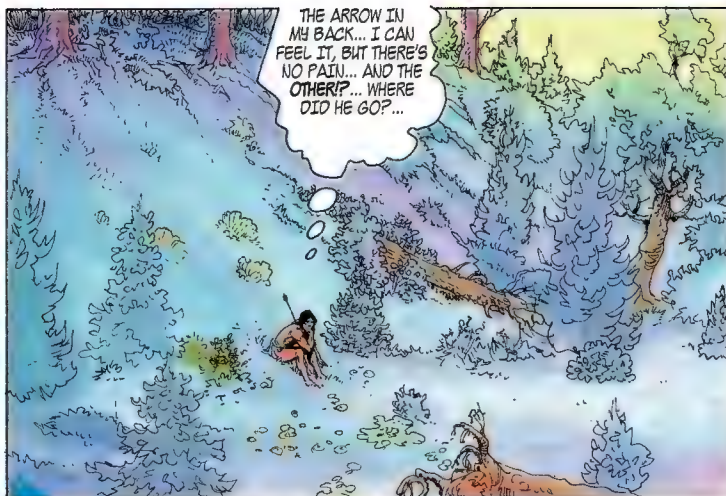
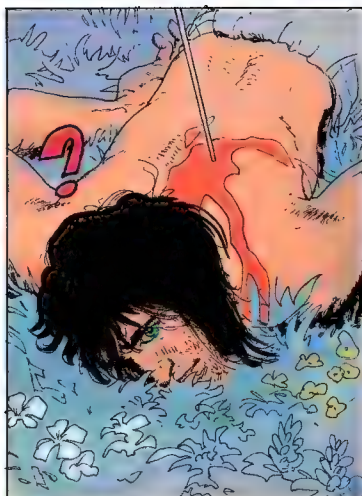
???



SURPRISING, EH?







BEWARE, THORGA! I CAN SEND YOU, AT WILL, TO A WORLD OF TERRORS WHERE YOU'LL UNDERGO A THOUSAND OF THE MOST ATROCIOUS TORTURES UNTIL THE END OF TIME...

WAIT... WHEN I... WHEN YOU SAW ME LAST, HOW WAS I DRESSED?

WAS I NOT WEARING A KIND OF YELLOWISH GARB WITH RED SPOTS, RIPPED ALL OVER, WITH A GREEN STRIPED HAT?

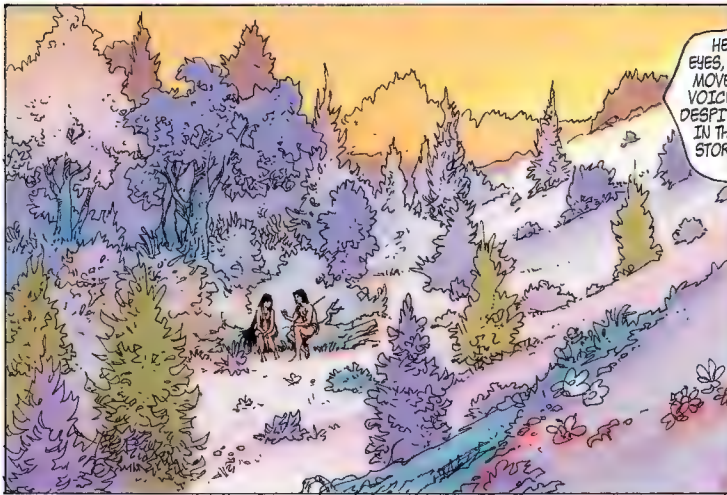
AS IF YOU DIDN'T KNOW THAT, SEEING AS YOU WERE IN IT.



NOT I, THOUGH. IT WAS THE OTHER.

WHAT OTHER? WHAT SWEET TALK ARE YOU GOING TO TRY AND FEED ME NOW?

I'M NOT TRYING TO DO ANYTHING BUT UNDERSTAND. LET ME TELL YOU WHAT JUST HAPPENED TO ME.



HE HAD YOUR EYES, THORGA. YOUR MOVEMENTS, YOUR VOICE, YOUR BODY. DESPITE YOUR ARROW IN THE BACK, YOUR STORY IS HARD TO BELIEVE.

THE ARROW IN THE BACK! THAT'S IT. NOW I KNOW WHERE I MET THE MAN WHO WORE THOSE CLOTHES, AND YOU KNOW HIM TOO.



REMEMBER OUR FIRST MEETING ON THE WHIRLPOOL ISLANDS*... TWO MEN WERE WITH ME... A BIG BRUTE CALLED KARSHAN OF URZEN, AND THE OTHER, THE CHEAT...

VOLSUNG OF NICHOR!

PERHAPS YOU COULD GET THIS ARROW OUT OF MY BACK, NOW?



*SEE THE THREE ELDERS OF ARAN.

LOGICALLY, I SHOULD BE DEAD. OR AT LEAST SERIOUSLY WOUNDED. NOW, I FEEL NO PAIN; I DON'T EVEN HAVE A SCAR. HOW IS THAT POSSIBLE?

DEATH IS JUST PASSING FROM ONE WORLD TO THE OTHER. AS GUARDIAN OF THIS PASSING, I CAN, IF I PLEASE, REVERSE THE DIRECTION OF PASSING.



BUT FOR HOW MUCH LONGER WILL I BE GUARDIAN? I'VE MADE THE GRAVEST OF ERRORS, THORGAL. I WAS ONE WITH A MORTAL, THINKING IT WAS YOU, AND I LOST MY BELT BECAUSE OF IT. WHEN I THINK THAT IT WAS THAT SWINE VOLSUNG WHO I... AAGH, I'D KILL MYSELF IF I COULD!



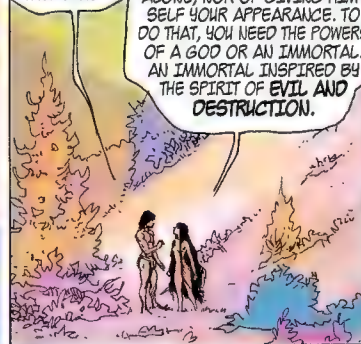
SO, THAT BELT IS THAT IMPORTANT TO YOU?

NOT JUST TO ME, THORGAL. IT GIVES THE WEARER INVINCIBILITY AND ETERNAL LIFE. I HAD NO RIGHT TO LOSE IT AT ANY COST.

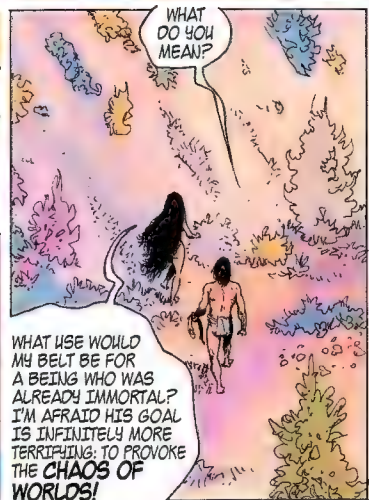


IMMORTALITY? BY ALL THE GODS! I UNDERSTAND WHY A THIEF LIKE VOLSUNG WOULD WANT TO GET HOLD OF SUCH A VALUABLE TREASURE.

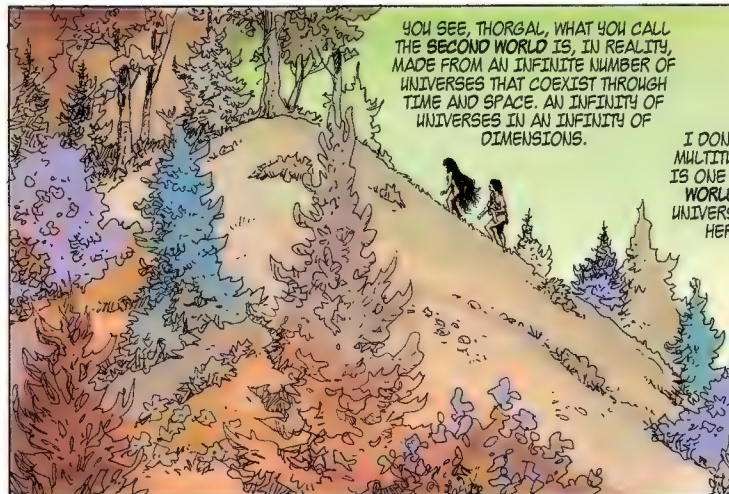
VOLSUNG IS BUT A MAN. HE WAS CERTAINLY NOT CAPABLE OF GETTING OUT OF THE FOLDS OF SPACE ALONE, NOR OF GIVING HIMSELF YOUR APPEARANCE. TO DO THAT, YOU NEED THE POWERS OF A GOD OR AN IMMORTAL. AN IMMORTAL INSPIRED BY THE SPIRIT OF EVIL AND DESTRUCTION.



WHAT DO YOU MEAN?



WHAT USE WOULD MY BELT BE FOR A BEING WHO WAS ALREADY IMMORTAL? I'M AFRAID HIS GOAL IS INFINITELY MORE TERRIFYING: TO PROVOKE THE CHAOS OF WORLDS!

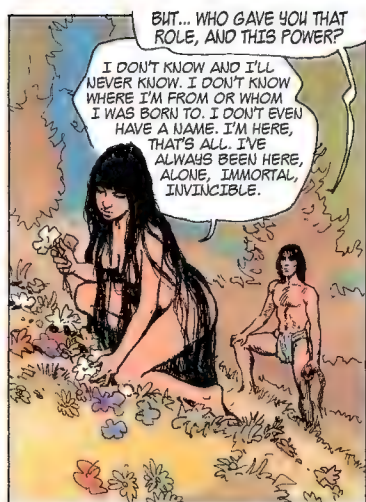


YOU SEE, THORGAL, WHAT YOU CALL THE SECOND WORLD IS, IN REALITY, MADE FROM AN INFINITE NUMBER OF UNIVERSES THAT COEXIST THROUGH TIME AND SPACE. AN INFINITY OF UNIVERSES IN AN INFINITY OF DIMENSIONS.

ASSGARD, THE LAND OF YOUR GODS, MIDGARD, THE LAND OF HUMANS, AND NIFHEL, THE RESTING PLACE OF THE DEAD, ARE ONLY A FEW EXAMPLES OF THESE PARALLEL WORLDS.

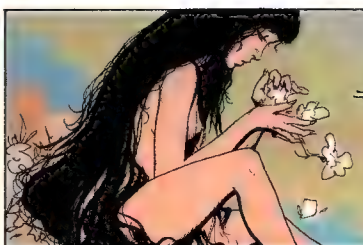
I DON'T KNOW WHO CREATED THIS MULTITUDE OF ENTITIES, BUT THERE IS ONE FIXED RULE: THE LAW OF THE WORLDS, WHICH FORBIDS THESE UNIVERSES FROM COLLIDING. I AM HERE TO UPHOLD THIS LAW.

AS YOU WELL KNOW, THERE ARE CERTAIN PASSAGES TO WHICH ONE CAN FIND THE KEYS. I'VE RECEIVED THE POWER OF CONTROLLING THESE PASSAGES. I AM THE GUARDIAN OF THE KEYS.



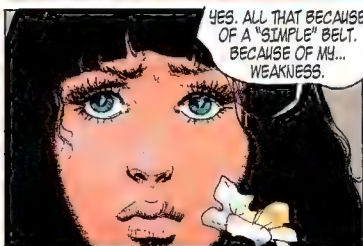
BUT... WHO GAVE YOU THAT
ROLE, AND THIS POWER?

I DON'T KNOW AND I'LL
NEVER KNOW. I DON'T KNOW
WHERE I'M FROM OR WHOM
I WAS BORN TO. I DON'T EVEN
HAVE A NAME. I'M HERE,
THAT'S ALL. I'VE
ALWAYS BEEN HERE,
ALONE, IMMORTAL,
INVINCIBLE.

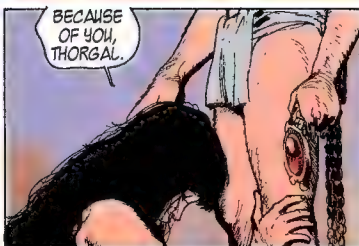


AND THAT'S THE DANGER, THORGAL. I'VE BECOME
VULNERABLE AND MORTAL. IF ANYTHING HAPPENS
TO ME, IF I DISAPPEAR, THE PASSAGES WILL NO
LONGER BE GUARDED. THE UNIVERSES WILL COLLIDE,
THE DIMENSIONS WILL CRUMBLE, AND IT WILL
BE CHAOS, APOCALYPSE, THE END OF
CREATION!

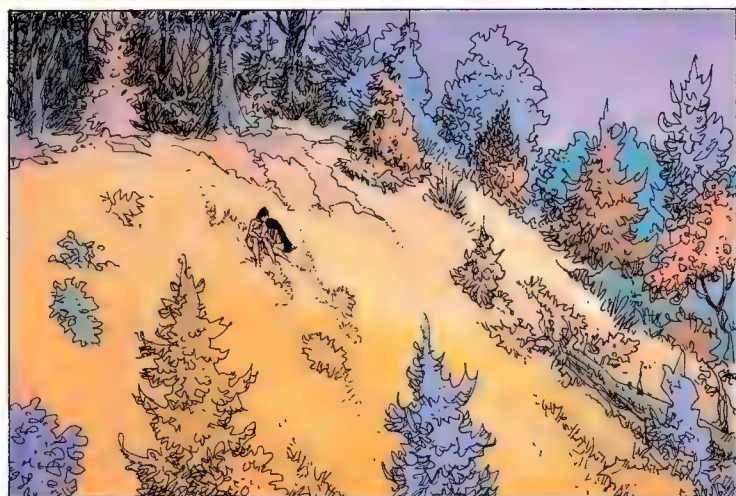
AND ALL
THAT BECAUSE...
OF A SIMPLE
BELT?



YES. ALL THAT BECAUSE
OF A "SIMPLE" BELT.
BECAUSE OF MY...
WEAKNESS.

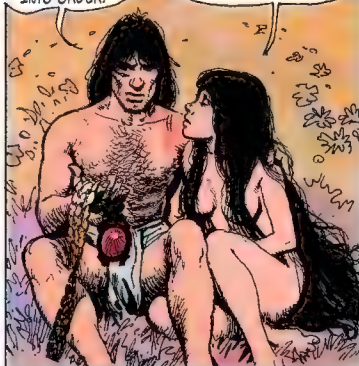


BECAUSE
OF YOU,
THORGAL.



I KNOW WHERE
VOLSUNG'S HIDING.
I'LL GO AND GET
BACK YOUR BELT.
THE REAL ONE. AND
IT'LL ALL FALL BACK
INTO ORDER.

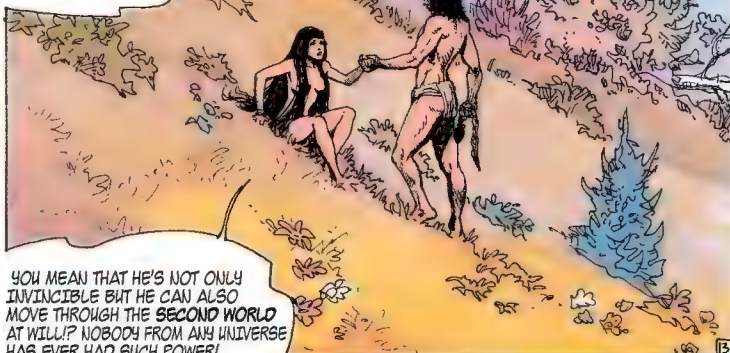
IT'S TOO LATE, THORGAL.
HE WILL HAVE ALREADY
GIVEN IT TO THE EVIL BEING
WHOSE INSTRUMENT HE WAS
AND WHO WILL HAVE SENT
HIM BACK TO MIDGARD AS
COMPENSATION.



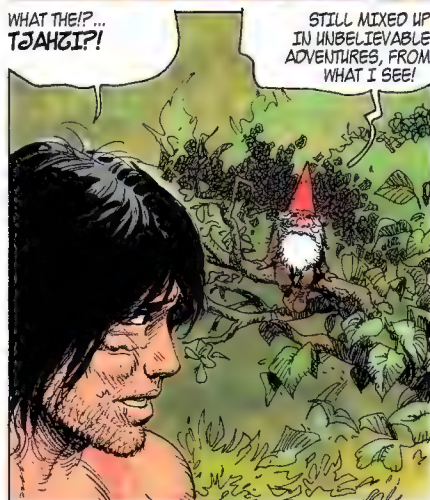
NO. REMEMBER WHAT I TOLD YOU:
MY KNIFE BROKE BEFORE IT EVEN
TOUCHED HIS CHEST. VOLSUNG HAS
BECOME INVINCIBLE BECAUSE
HE'S WEARING YOUR BELT.

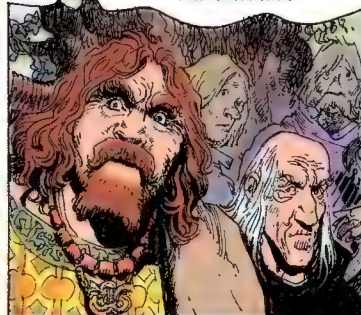
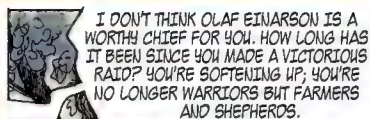
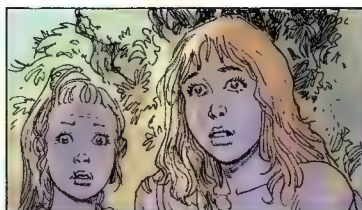
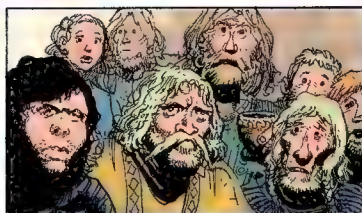
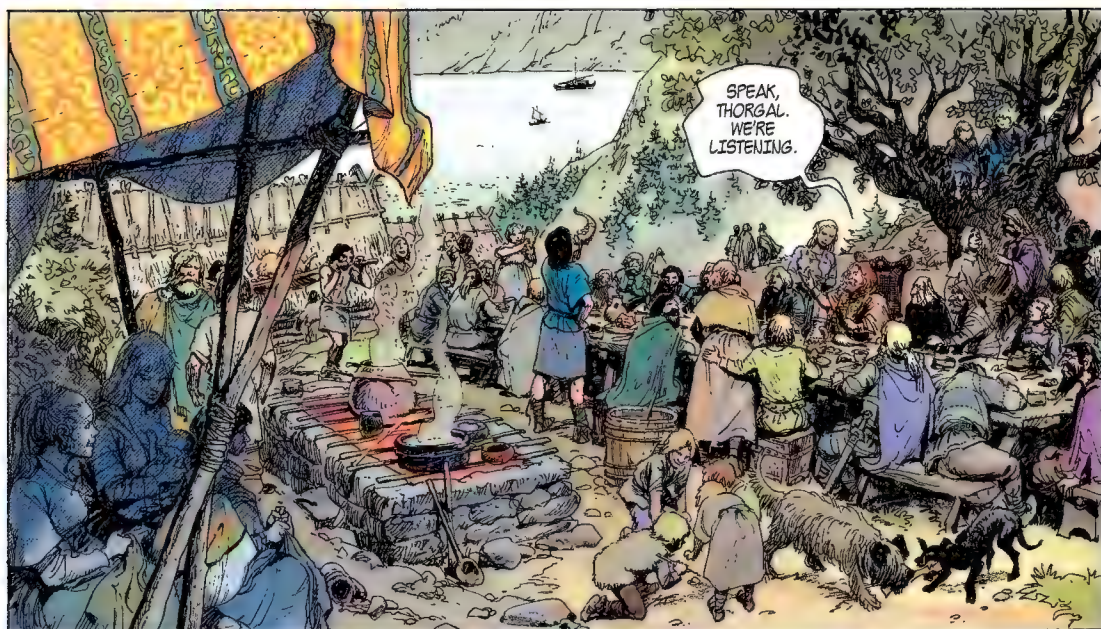


HE'S SUCH A CHEAT THAT HE'LL HAVE
WANTED TO KEEP IT HIMSELF. AND
HE GOT BACK TO MIDGARD THANKS
TO YOUR SILVER KEY THAT HE KEPT,
THINKING HIMSELF SAFE FROM
THE ONE WHO GAVE HIM HIS
WICKED MISSION.



YOU MEAN THAT HE'S NOT ONLY
INVINCIBLE BUT HE CAN ALSO
MOVE THROUGH THE **SECOND WORLD**
AT WILL? NOBODY FROM ANY UNIVERSE
HAS EVER HAD SUCH POWER!...

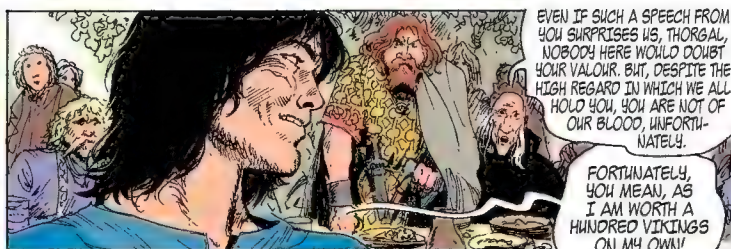






YOU'VE HAD TOO MUCH TO DRINK, THOR! YOU'RE DRUNK ON BEER AND VANITY. YOUR ARROGANCE...

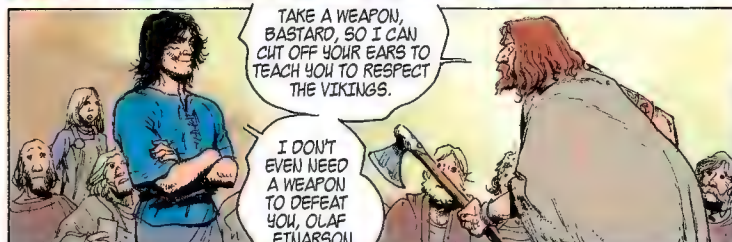
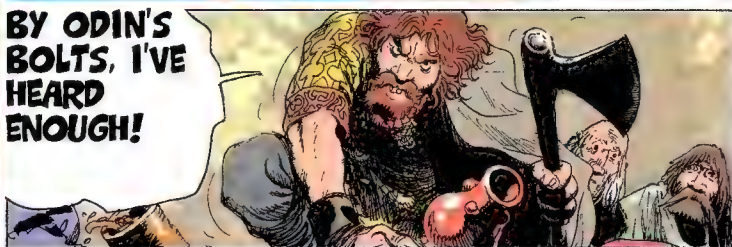
WAIT, OLAF.



EVEN IF SUCH A SPEECH FROM YOU SURPRISES US, THORAL, NOBODY HERE WOULD DOUBT YOUR VALOUR. BUT, DESPITE THE HIGH REGARD IN WHICH WE ALL HOLD YOU, YOU ARE NOT OF OUR BLOOD, UNFORTUNATELY.

FORTUNATELY, YOU MEAN, AS I AM WORTH A HUNDRED VIKINGS ON MY OWN!

BY ODIN'S BOLTS, I'VE HEARD ENOUGH!



TAKE A WEAPON, BASTARD, SO I CAN CUT OFF YOUR EARS TO TEACH YOU TO RESPECT THE VIKINGS.

I DON'T EVEN NEED A WEAPON TO DEFEAT YOU, OLAF EINARSON.

CURSED SWINE, I'LL...



YOU'RE HEAVY, BRUTAL, CLUMSY AND VERY STUPID. THE ONLY THING THAT'S GOOD ABOUT YOU IS YOUR WOMAN, WHO WAS BLIND ENOUGH TO MARRY YOU.

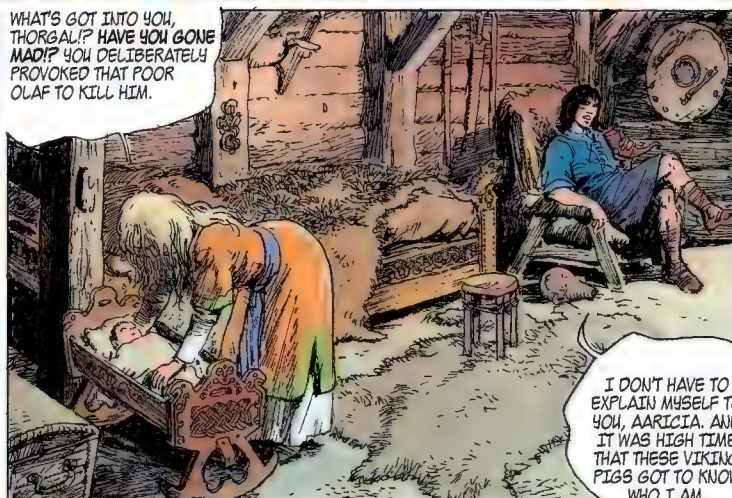
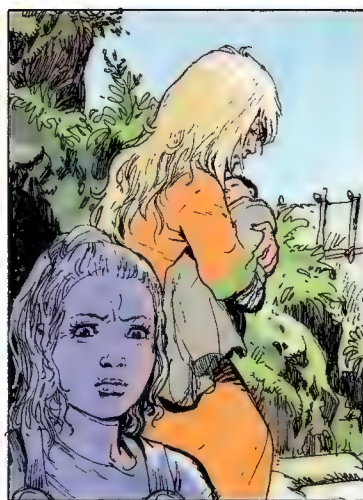
HMPFFFF!



YOUR STUPID WAYS ARE FUN TO WATCH, OLAF EINARSON...

ODIN WILL SURELY APPRECIATE HOW THEY AMUSE HIS VALKYRIES.







WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, JOLAN? GET BACK TO BED!

LEAVE AARICIA ALONE! ONLY THORGAL CAN TOUCH HER. AND YOU'RE NOT THORGAL!



YOU FILTHY LITTLE SNOT-NOSE!...

AAGH!



I'M GOING TO GIVE YOU A THRASHING YOU'LL NEVER FORGET, MY BOY.

NO!...



GET OUT, YOU! YOU'LL GET YOUR TURN LATER!

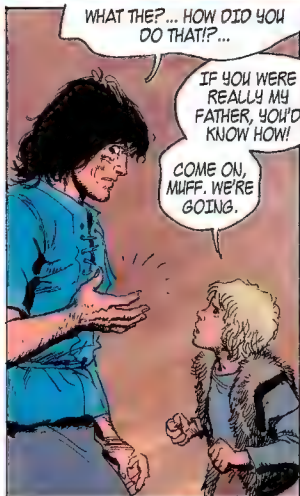


AND YOU, TOO! GET IN BED, DOG!

HELP



AAA



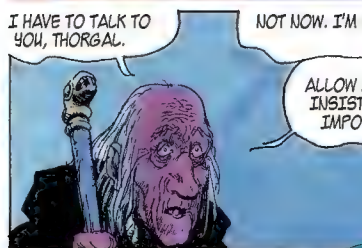
WHAT THE? ... HOW DID YOU DO THAT? ...

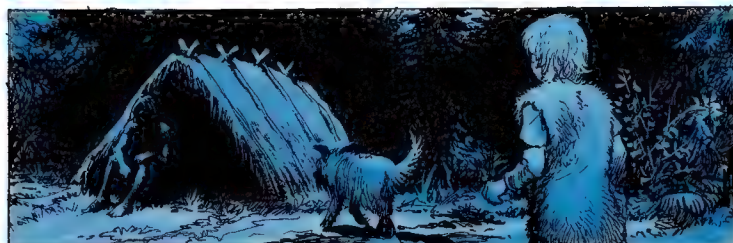
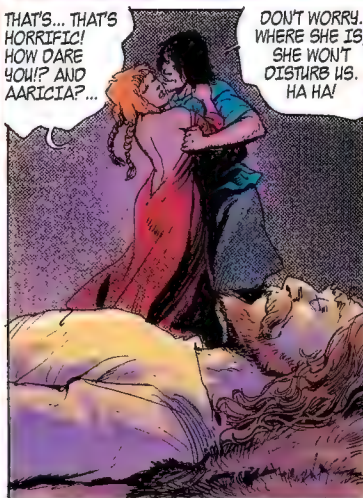
IF YOU WERE REALLY MY FATHER, YOU'D KNOW HOW!

COME ON, MUFF. WE'RE GOING.



THAT FILTHY BOY COULD RUIN EVERYTHING. HE'LL HAVE TO BE...







OH, THORGAL, IT IS YOU!... I WAS SO AFRAID THAT... IT WILL BE ALL RIGHT, SOLAN. DON'T YOU WORRY.

BUT WHAT HAPPENED? WHO IS THAT OTHER MAN WHO TOOK YOUR FACE?

A CERTAIN VOLSHING OF NICHOR. I'LL EXPLAIN...

SO THIS IS SOLAN?



MY COMPLIMENTS, THORGAL. THAT'S A HANDSOME BOY YOU'VE GOT THERE. JUST LIKE ME, AT HIS AGE.

GOOD EVENING, SOLAN. I'M TJAHZI.

TJAHZI!?



YOU... YOU REALLY EXIST?

OF COURSE I REALLY EXIST. BUT WHETHER I EXIST IN REALITY, THAT'S ANOTHER STORY. WHEN YOU PASS FROM ONE WORLD TO ANOTHER NONSTOP, IT'S HARD TO TELL WHAT'S REAL AND WHAT'S NOT. I'LL HAVE TO THINK ABOUT THAT QUESTION.

THORGAL, THE... THAT OTHER MAN... HE'S DONE SOME AWFUL THINGS.

I KNOW. TJAHZI, WHO CAN MAKE HIMSELF INVISIBLE, HAS BEEN WATCHING HIM SINCE WE GOT HERE. UNFORTUNATELY, WE COULDN'T DO ANYTHING.

BUT YOU'RE GOING TO DO SOMETHING, RIGHT? YOU'LL FINISH HIM?

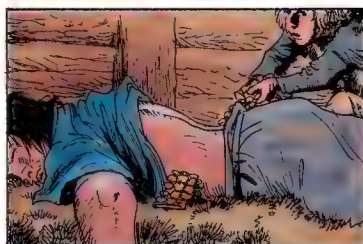
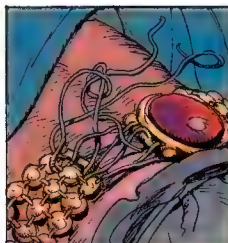
OF COURSE. FIRST, THOUGH, WE HAVE TO GET BACK THE MAGIC BELT THAT HE WEARS UNDER HIS CLOTHES. FOR THAT, WE'LL HAVE TO WAIT FOR HIM TO GO HOME—OUR HOME THAT IS—AND GO TO SLEEP.



THAT WILL BE THE MOST DANGEROUS PART, SOLAN, AND I CAN ONLY SEE YOU AND TJAHZI BEING ABLE TO DO IT. BUT, IF YOU SUCCEED, WHAT WILL FOLLOW PROMISES TO BE A LOT MORE FUN.



21



THORGAL!

HOW DARE YOU COME BACK? AFTER... AFTER WHAT YOU PUT ME THROUGH!...

I CAME TO GIVE YOU THE CHANCE TO TAKE REVENGE, ERIKA. TO TAKE REVENGE FOR YOUR HUSBAND.

THAT'S A CHANCE THAT I WON'T LET PASS, BASTARD! I'LL K...

LET ME EXPLAIN THE SITUATION FIRST, CALMLY. YOU CAN DECIDE AFTER.

LISTEN! SHUT IT UP OR I'LL BREAK THAT CURSED BRAT'S HEAD.

WAAAAAAH!

IT'D BE BETTER IF YOU LET ME OUT, THORGAL.

REALLY?... WOULD YOU BE READY TO BE MORE DOCILE, MY HEART'S PRINCESS?

SUBMIT MYSELF TO THE DRUNKEN FOOL THAT YOU SHODDENLY SEEM TO HAVE BECOME? NEVER!

THEN YOU RISK STAYING IN THERE FOR A GOOD WHILE YET. SWEET DREAMS, BEAUTIFUL. HA HA!

SEEMS LIKE THAT POOR THORGAL HAD NO IDEA HOW TO HANDLE WOMEN. I'LL SHOW HER WHAT A WOMAN'S LIFE IS...

MY BELT!?!

PHW, THERE IT IS!
IT CAME OFF IN
MY SLEEP.



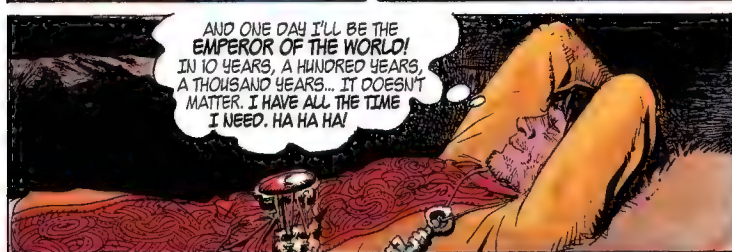
I'LL HAVE TO FIND A MORE
SECURE WAY OF FASTENING IT.
I'LL ALSO HAVE TO FIND OTHER
CLOTHES, BETTER SUITED TO
MY FUTURE POSITION.



TOMORROW THOSE IDIOTS WILL MAKE
ME KING. I'LL REIGN OVER THE WHOLE
LAND. THEN BRITTANY, GERMANY, THE
FRANKISH COUNTRY... NOBODY
WILL BE ABLE TO
STOP ME.



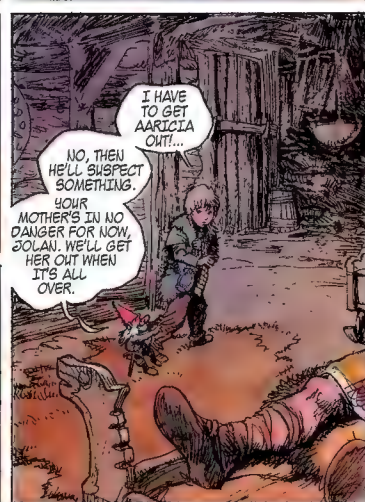
AND ONE DAY I'LL BE THE
EMPEROR OF THE WORLD!
IN 10 YEARS, A HUNDRED YEARS,
A THOUSAND YEARS... IT DOESN'T
MATTER. I HAVE ALL THE TIME
I NEED. HA HA HA!



TIME...
I... NEED...
FRRRR

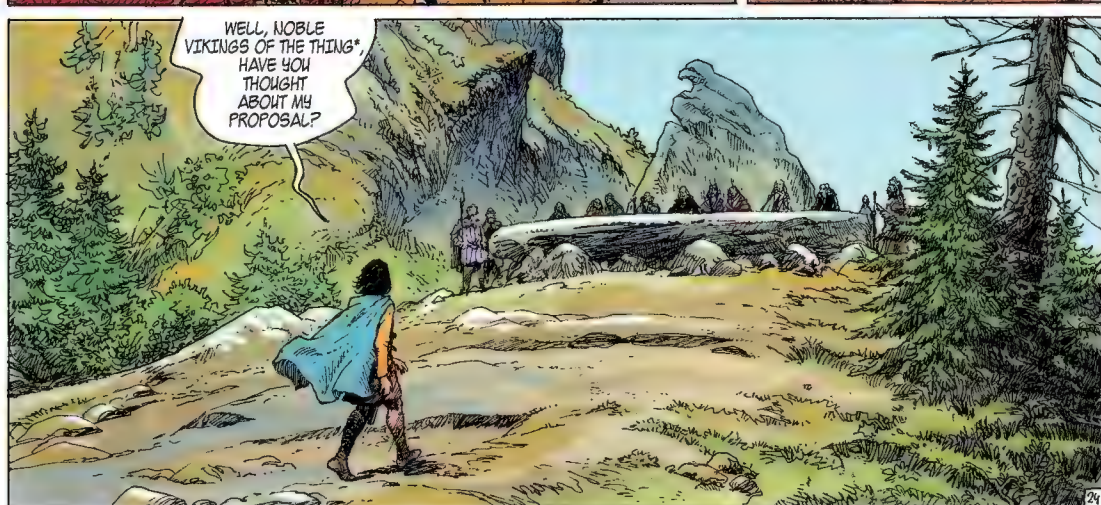


I HAVE
TO GET
AARICIA
OUT!...

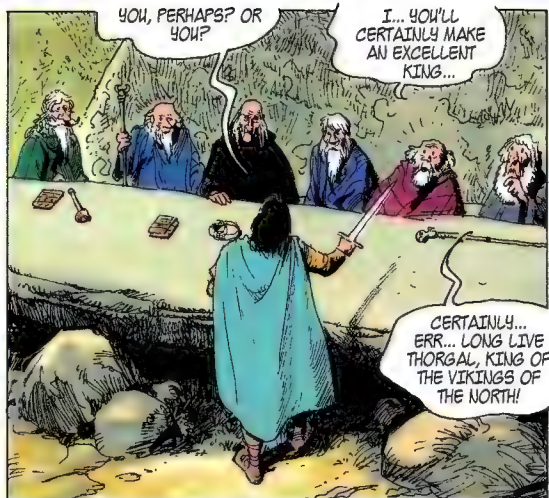


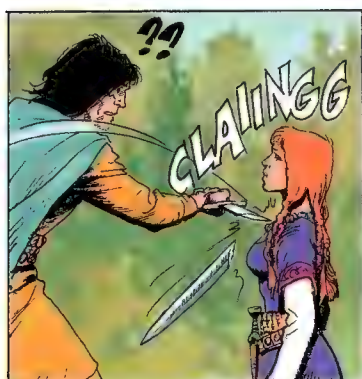
NO, THEN
HE'LL SUSPECT
SOMETHING.
YOUR
MOTHER'S IN NO
DANGER FOR NOW,
GOLAN. WE'LL GET
HER OUT WHEN
IT'S ALL
OVER.

WELL, NOBLE
VIKINGS OF THE THING*
HAVE YOU
THOUGHT
ABOUT MY
PROPOSAL?



*LEGAL ASSEMBLY OF EACH VIKING CLAN





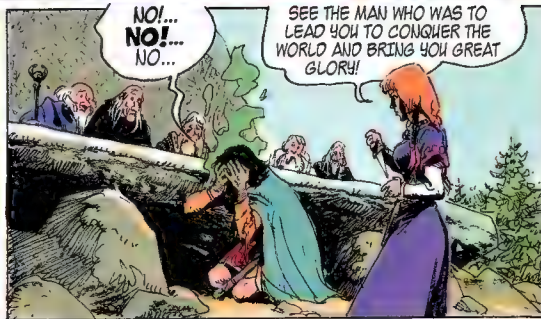
I... I DON'T UNDERSTAND...

OLAF DIDN'T UNDERSTAND EITHER.

YOU DIDN'T GIVE HIM TIME TO.



YOU... YOU'VE HURT ME! BUT THAT'S... THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!...

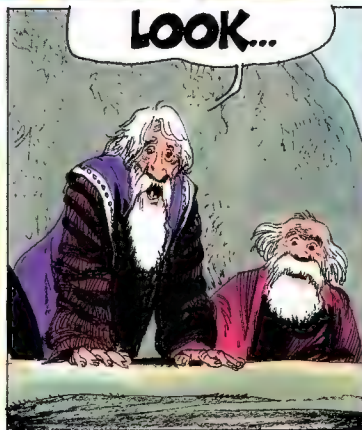


NO!... NO!... NO!...

SEE THE MAN WHO WAS TO LEAD YOU TO CONQUER THE WORLD AND BRING YOU GREAT GLORY!



I DEMAND THAT THIS MAN, WHOEVER HE IS, BE JUDGED FOR THE MURDER OF OLAF EINARSON, MY HUSBAND AND YOUR CHIEF. I DEMAND THAT HE...

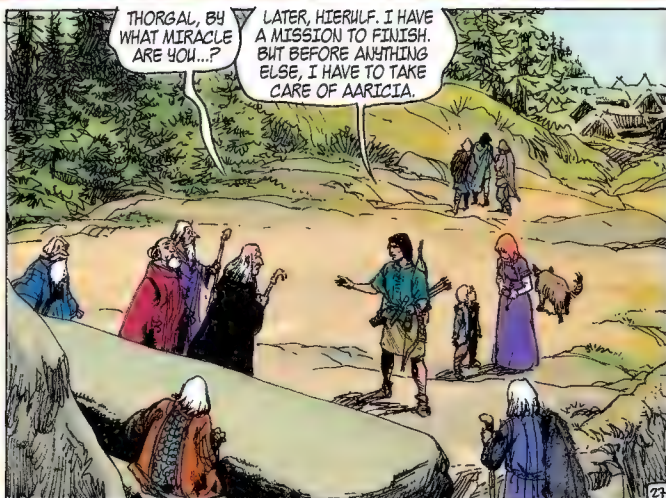
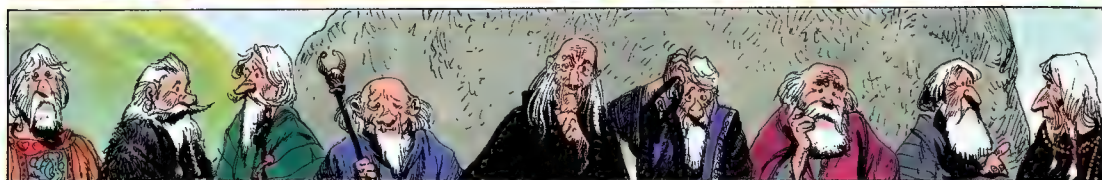


LOOK...



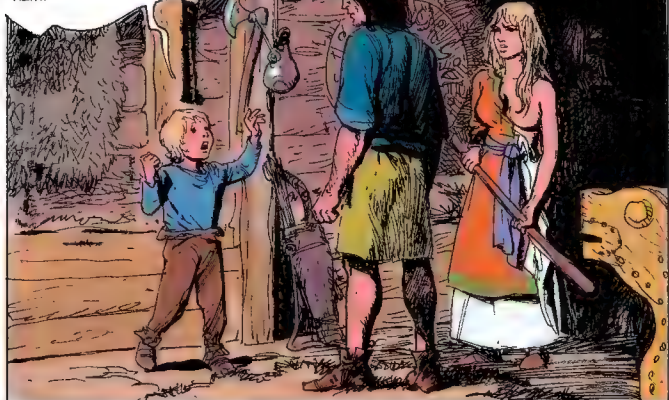
CURSES... ON YOU ALL!...







HE MANAGED TO GET A HORSE AND GET AWAY AFTER KNOCKING OUT GUNNAR. THE OTHERS TOOK OFF AFTER HIM.



THE CURSED SNAKE! I TOLD THEM TO BE CAREFUL.

BUT I DON'T HAVE THE TIME TO RUN AFTER HIM. FIRST I HAVE TO TAKE THIS BELT TO THE GUARDIAN OF THE KEYS.

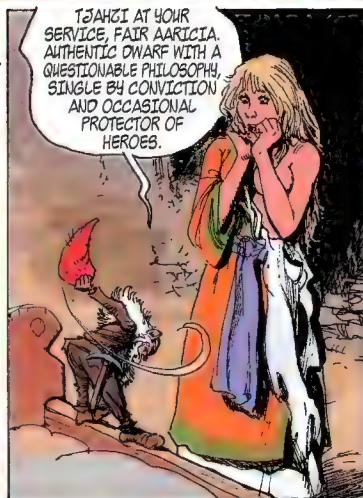
TJAHZI, WHERE ARE YOU?

HERE, OF COURSE!



HAVE I NOT BEEN ASKED TO WATCH YOU? WITHOUT WANTING TO GET INVOLVED IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD QUARRELS, OF COURSE.

TJAHZI AT YOUR SERVICE, FAIR AARICIA. AUTHENTIC DWARF WITH A QUESTIONABLE PHILOSOPHY, SINGLE BY CONVICTION AND OCCASIONAL PROTECTOR OF HEROES.



WHEN YOU'VE FINISHED SMOOTH-TALKING, PERHAPS WE CAN THINK ABOUT LEAVING?

LET'S GO, MY BOY! LET'S HEAD FOR THE SECOND WORLD!

SECOND WORLD?!

LET ME COME WITH YOU, THORGAL.

NOT THIS TIME JOLAN. TRY TO EXPLAIN TO AARICIA WHAT HAPPENED. I HAVEN'T HAD THE TIME.

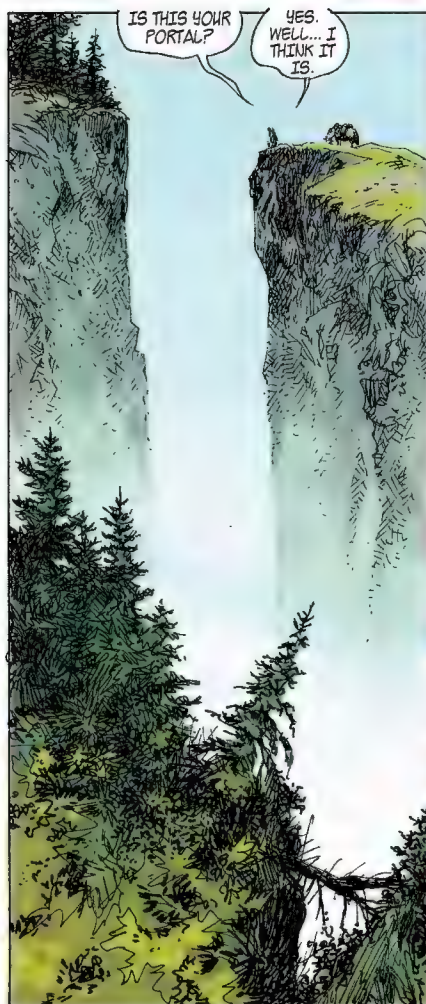


FAREWELL, JOLAN. HAPPY TO HAVE MET YOU.



WHERE ARE WE GOING?

I THINK I REMEMBER A PORTAL NOT TOO FAR FROM HERE.



IS THIS YOUR PORTAL?

YES. WELL... I THINK IT IS.



BUT THIS IS A BOTTOMLESS CHASM.

INDEED. THAT'S WHY YOU NEED A "KEY"!



AND YOUR KEY IS ME. JUMP AND DON'T LET ME GO.

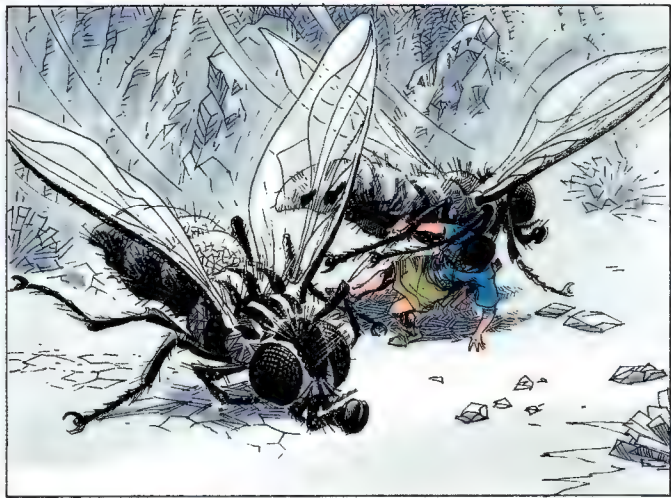
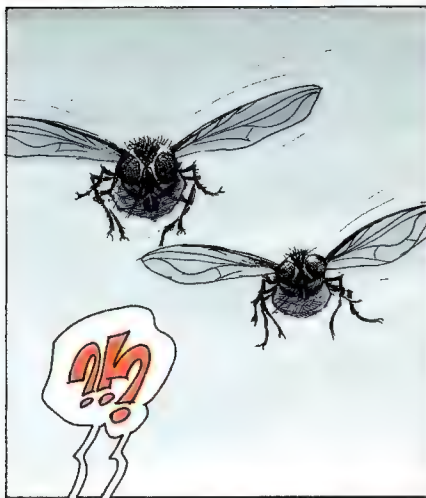
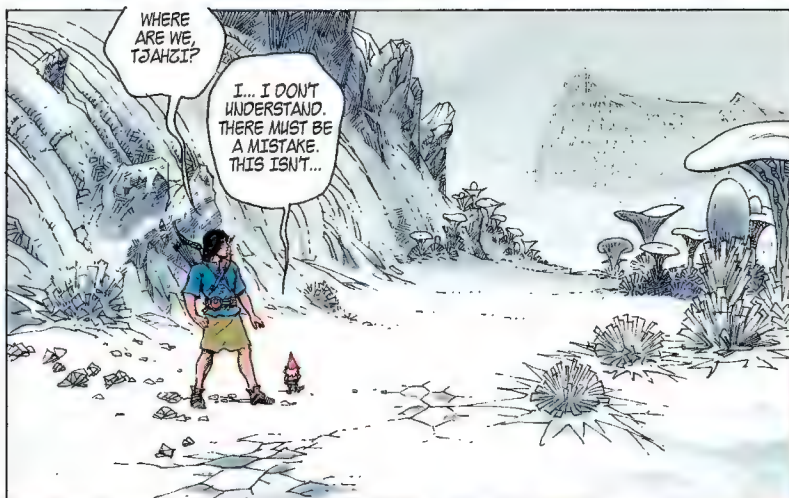
YOU REALLY WANT ME TO...?

JUMP, I SAID. ANYWAY, WITH YOUR BELT, WHAT HAVE YOU GOT TO LOSE?

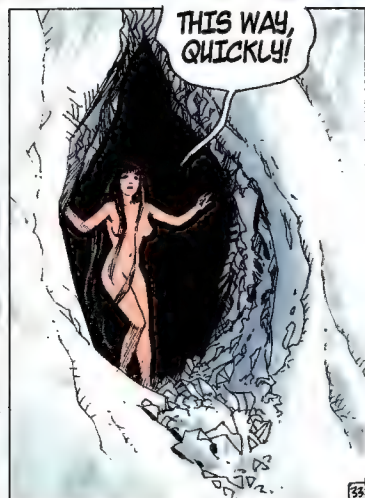
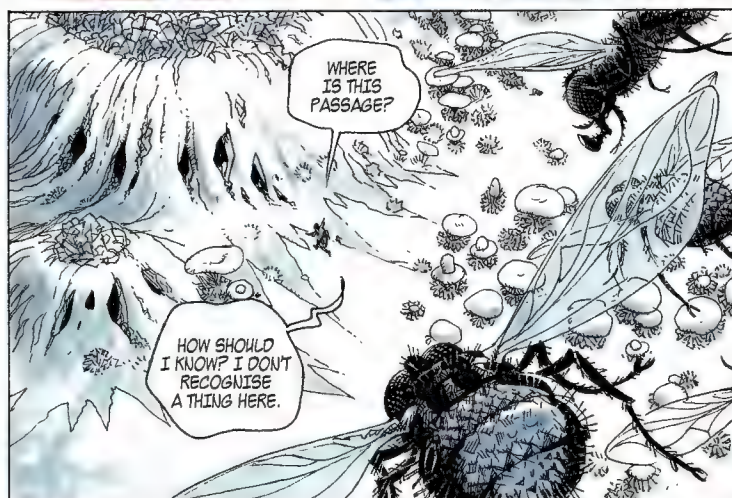


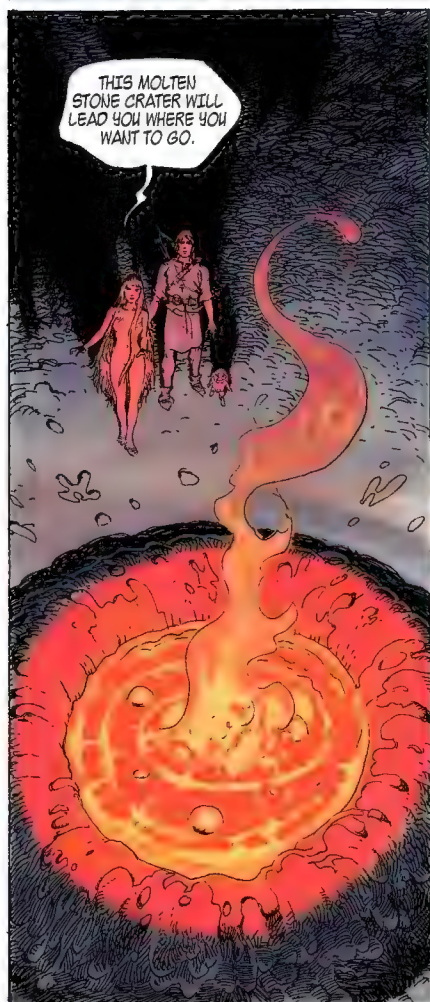
I HOPE YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING.

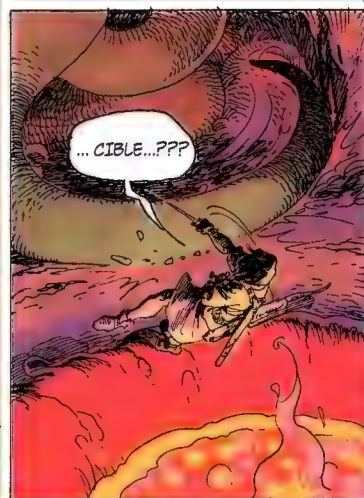
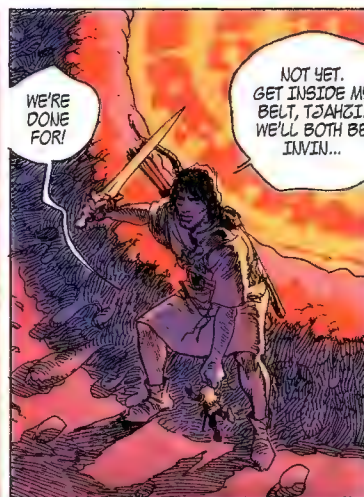


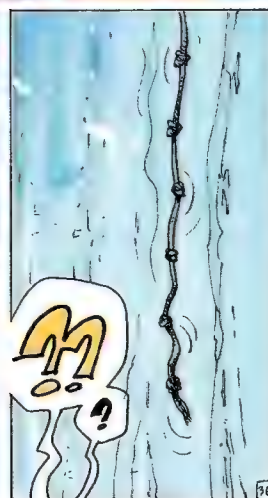
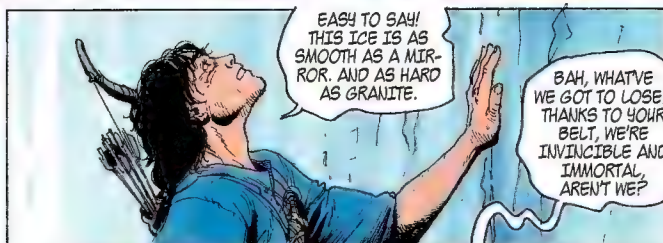


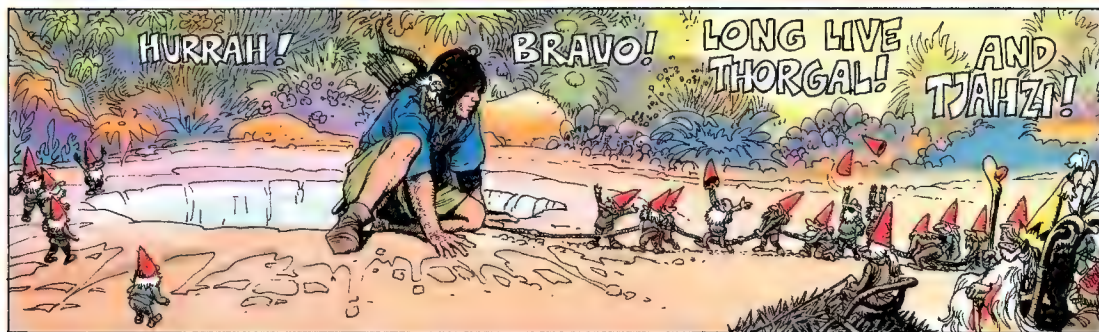
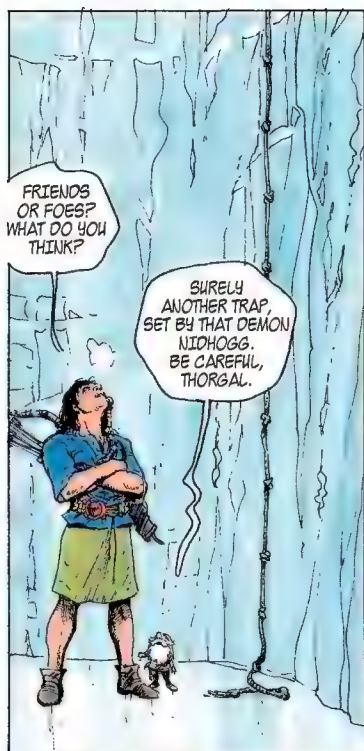
















THAT BELT IS REALLY HANDY. I'LL HAVE TO ASK MY DWARVES TO MAKE ME ONE.

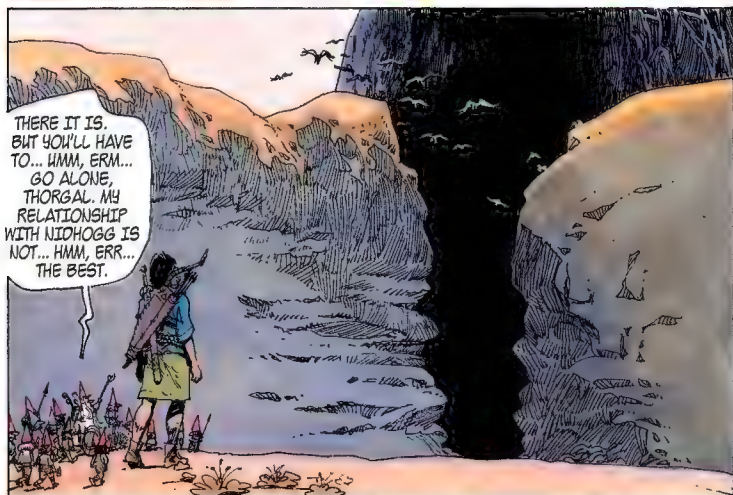
I MUST GIVE IT BACK TO THE GUARDIAN OF THE KEYS. YOU WOULDN'T HAPPEN TO KNOW WHERE I CAN FIND HER, WOULD YOU?



THE GUARD...? BY THE GREAT GODDESS FRIGG, I NEARLY FORGOT TO TELL YOU...



SHE'S BEING HELD PRISONER BY THAT ABOMINABLE NIDHOGG IN THE GORGE OF GROANS!

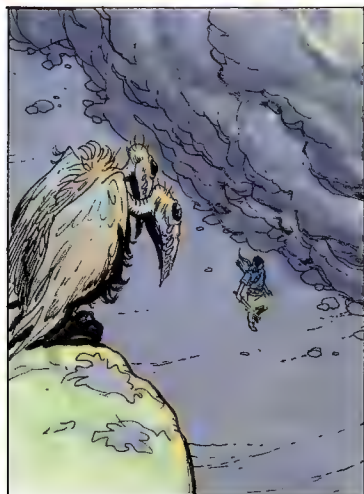


THERE IT IS. BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO... UMM, ERR... GO ALONE, THORGAL. MY RELATIONSHIP WITH NIDHOGG IS NOT... UMM, ERR... THE BEST.

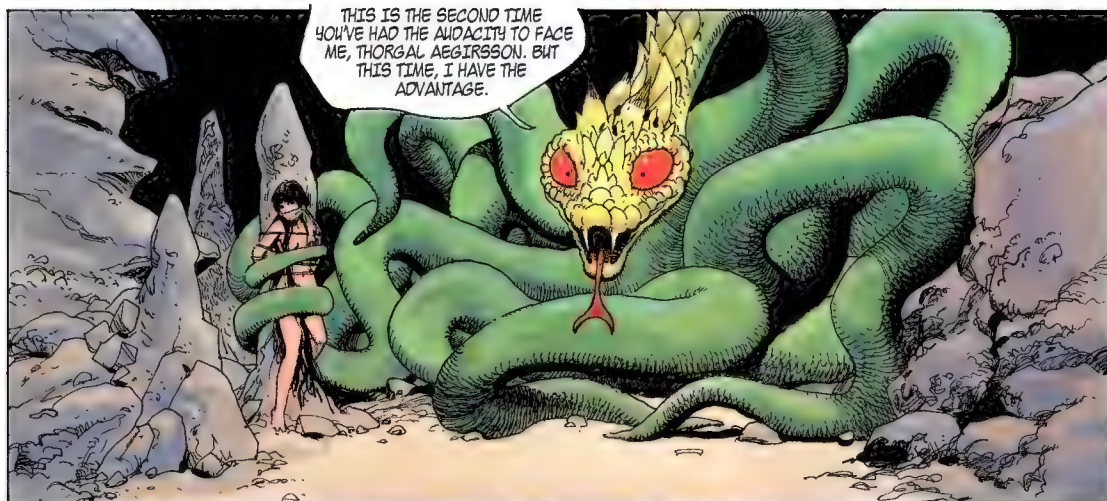


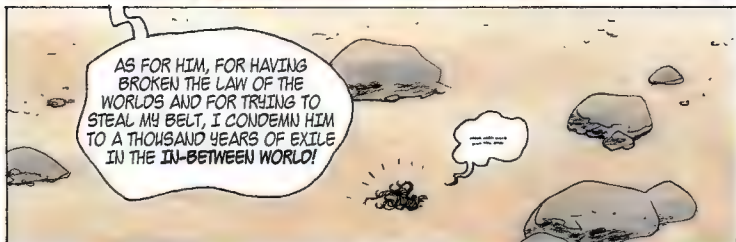
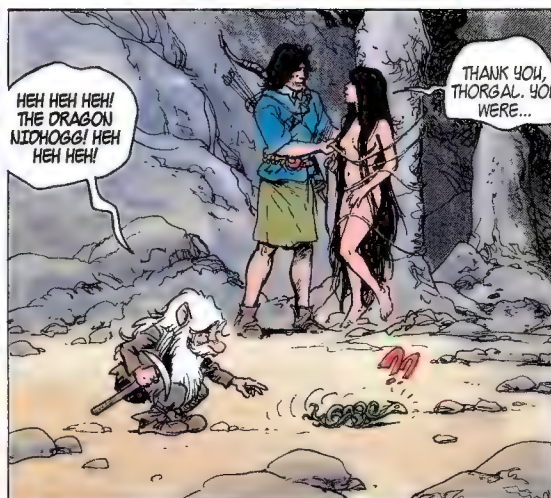
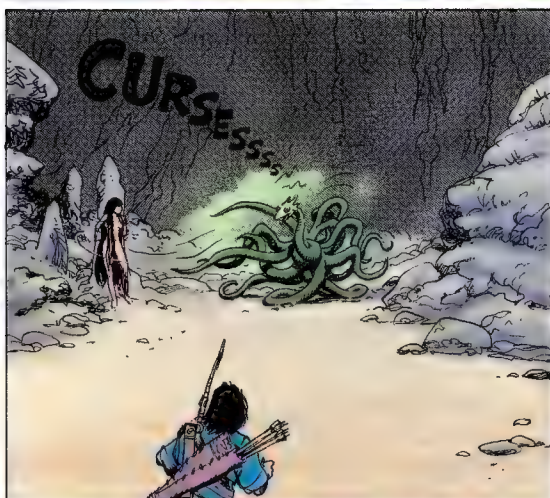
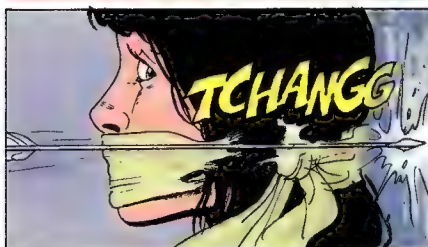
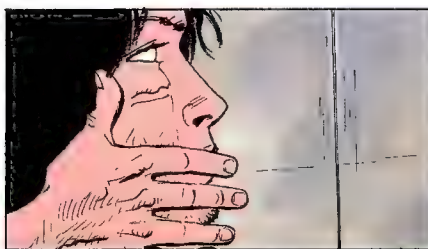
I'LL GO WITH YOU, THORGAL! TOGETHER WE CAN DEFEAT THAT DEMON!

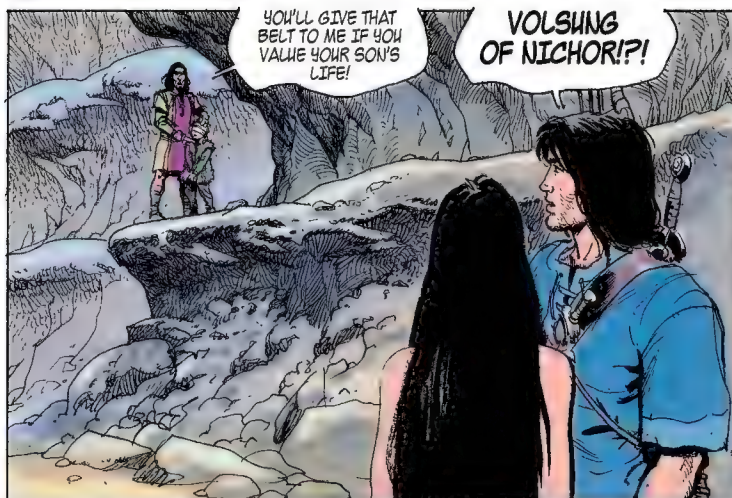
GREAT, TJAHGI! THAT'S REAL DWARF TALK!

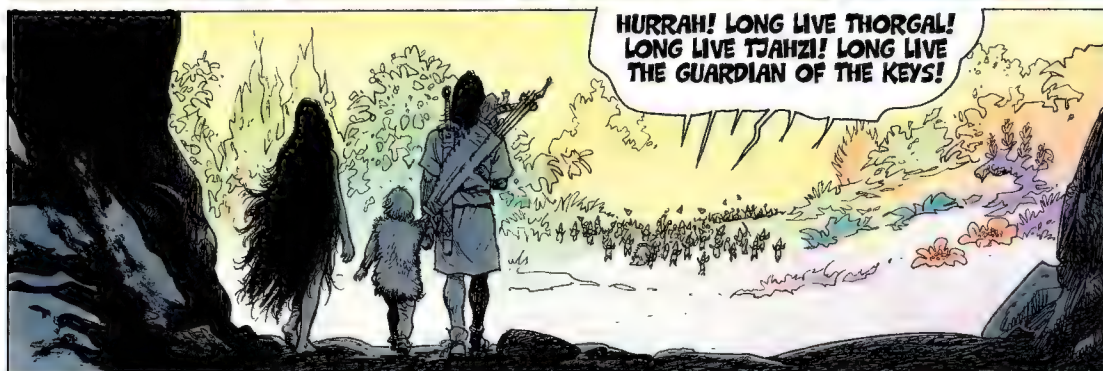
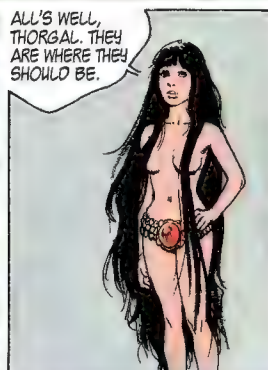
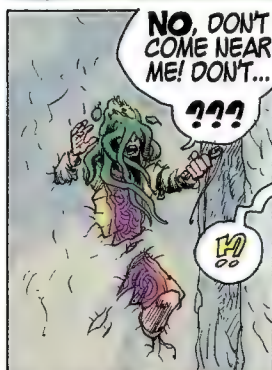


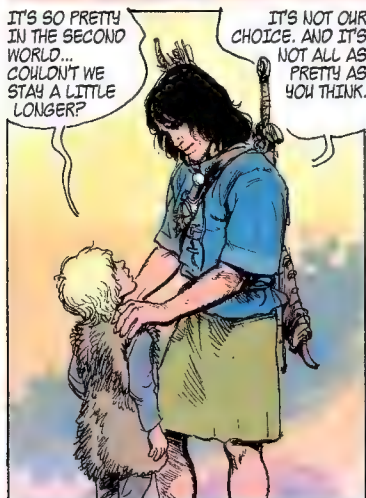
APPROACH, THORGAL. I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU.

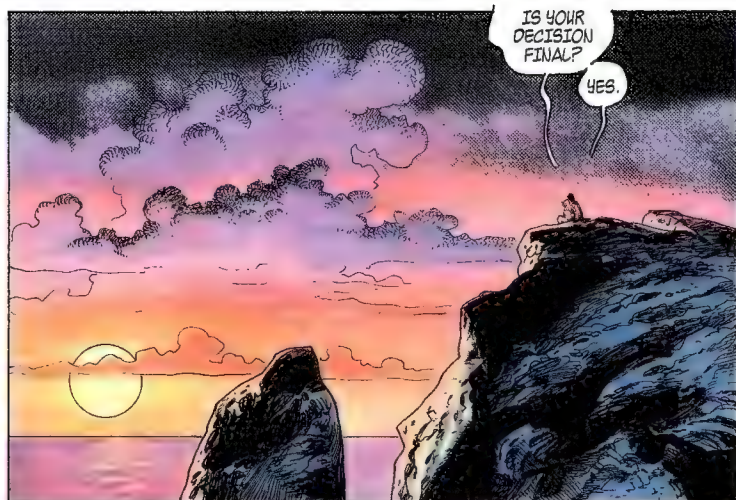










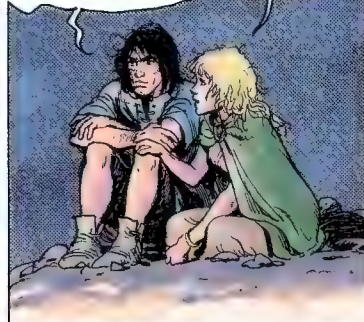


IS YOUR
DECISION
FINAL?

YES.

THE STRANGE DESTINY
THAT HAUNTS ME BRINGS YOU
INTO TOO MUCH DANGER.
I WANT YOU, SOLAN AND
WOLFCHUB TO BE ABLE TO
LEAD A NORMAL LIFE.
YOU'RE WITH YOUR PEOPLE
HERE. THEY'LL LOOK AFTER
YOU AND OUR CHILDREN.

BUT WHERE
WILL YOU GO?

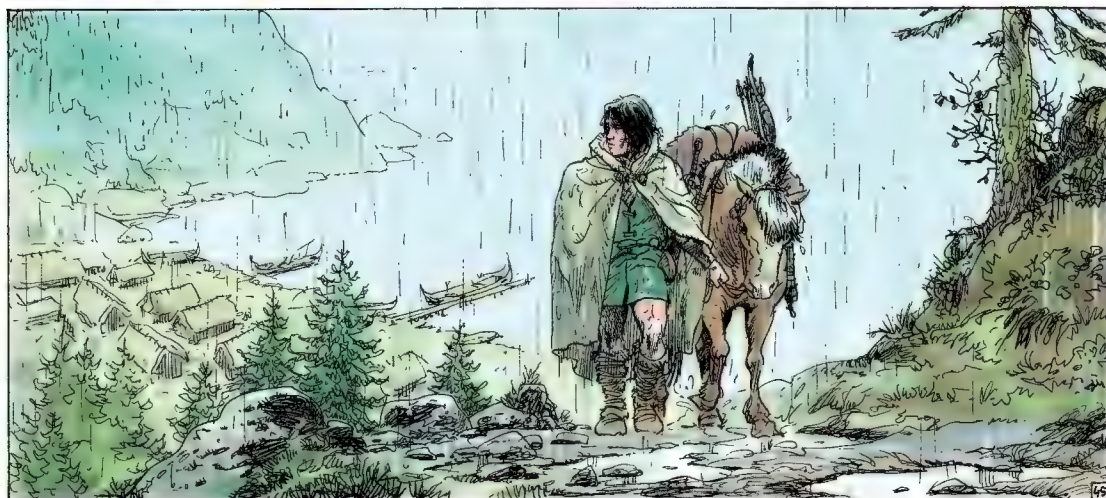
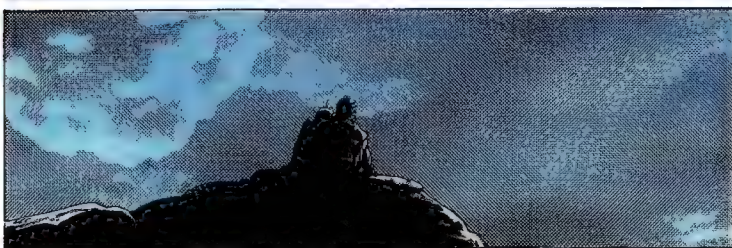


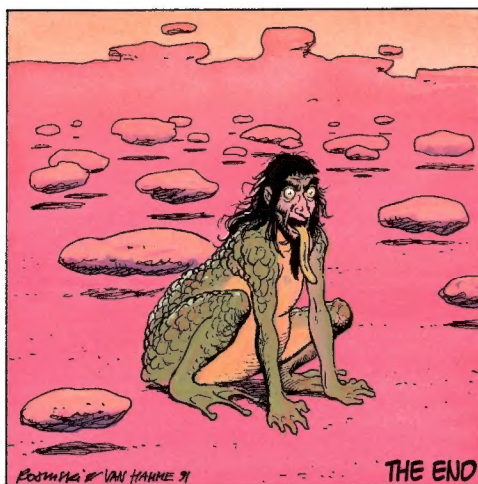
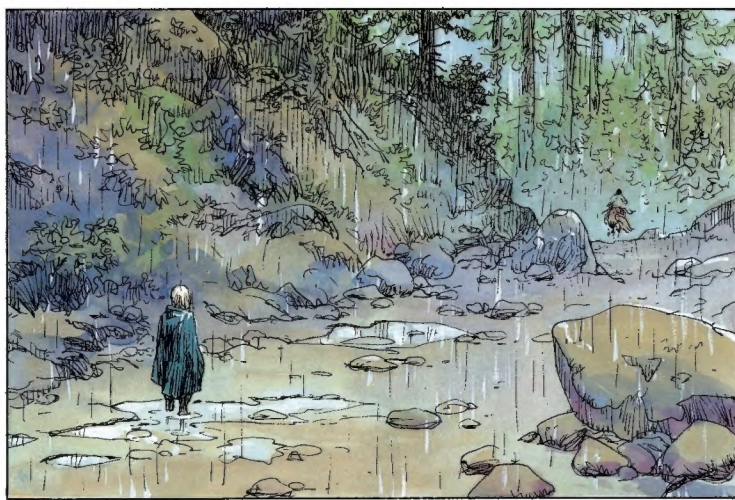
I DON'T KNOW. ANYWHERE...
IT DOESN'T MATTER. UNTIL
THE GODS FORGET ME AND
ALLOW ME TO COME BACK
AND LEAD A HAPPY LIFE
WITH YOU.

I DON'T WANT
YOU TO GO,
THORGAL. I
LOVE YOU
TOO MUCH.



I LOVE YOU TOO, AARICIA.
YOU ARE THE MOST PRECIOUS THING
I HAVE IN THE WORLD. AND THAT'S
EXACTLY WHY I HAVE TO LEAVE.





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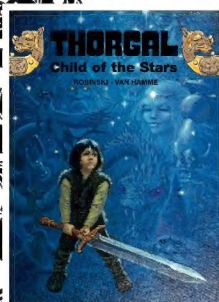
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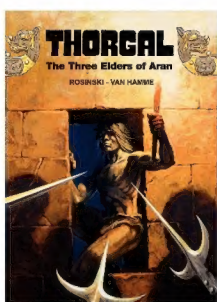


THORGAL

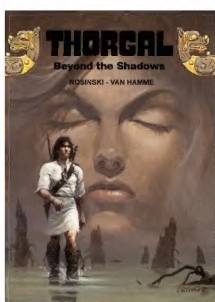
THE GODS HAVE PUT A MAN
TO THE TEST



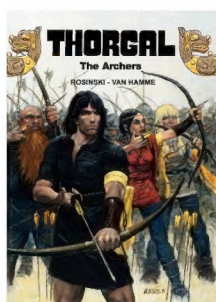
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Incl. Aaricia



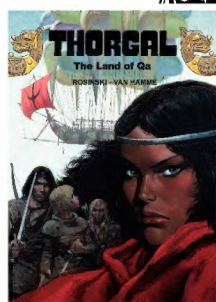
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Incl. The Black Galley



❸ Beyond the Shadows
Incl. The Fall of Brek Zarith



❹ The Archers
Incl. Alinoe

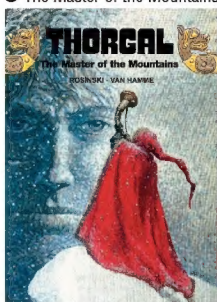


❺ The Land of Qa
Incl. The Eyes of Tanatloc

❻ City of the Lost God
Incl. Between Earth and Sun



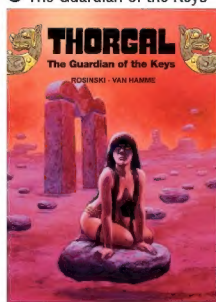
❼ The Master of the Mountains



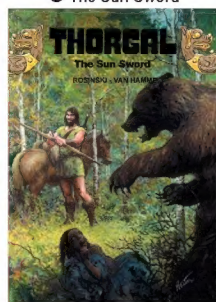
❽ Wolf Cub



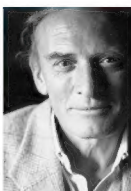
❾ The Guardian of the Keys



❿ The Sun Sword



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